

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-05 BIB-01 /084 W

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R 241125Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 8326

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

MBFR VIENNA 02

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USNATO 746

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1521

GENEVA FOR CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BE, CZ, EEC, COMECON

SUBJECT: BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S ACCOUNT OF HIS JUNE 18-21  
VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN RECOUNTING TO NATO REPRESENTATIVES  
THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH CSSR FONMIN, BELGIAN  
FONMIN VAN EISLANDE NOTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS HAD HEWN CLOSELY  
TO WELL-KNOWN EASTERN POSITIONS ON SUCH MATTERS AS CSCE, MBFR,  
UNITED NATIONS, CYPRUS, AND MIDDLE EAST. ONLY SURPRISE WAS  
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CZECHOSLOVAK PRESENTATION OF DRAFT TEXT OF BILATERAL

"DECLARATION OF FRIENDSHIP," WHICH PROPOSAL HAD APPARENTLY ALSO BEEN OFFERED TO FRENCH. END SUMMARY.

2. EVENING OF JUNE 20, BELGIAN FONMIN RENAAT VAN ELSLANDE INFORMALLY BRIEFED REPRESENTATIVES OF NATO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN PRAGUE ON SUBSTANCE OF HIS TALKS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK FONMIN CHNOUPEK. AT OUTSET, VAN ELSLANDE SAID HE WOULD NOT BORE THOSE PRESENT WITH BILATERAL CZECHOSLOVAK-BELGIAN MATTERS, BUT WOULD CONFINE HIS REMARKS TO "INTERNATIONAL" TOPICS.

3. ON CSCZGZ VAN ELSLANDE FOUND CZECHOSLOVAKS "MORE THAN OPTIMISTIC." INDEED, CHNOUPEK SEEMED TO TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT SUMMIT MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN HELSINKI JULY 22. WITH A STRAIGHT FACE, CHNOUPEK TOLD VAN ELSLANDE THAT HE SUPPORTED SOVIET CSCE TEXTS, "NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE SOVIET, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE THE BEST." CHNOUPEK NOTED THAT HE HAD PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO ROIGINAL CZECHOSLOVAK BASKET IV (FOLLOW-UP) PROPOSAL, WHICH HE HAD PERSONALLY MADE AT HELSINKI PHASE ONE MEETING, BUT INDICATED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF SHIFT FROM "HIGHT FUNCTIONARIES" TO "CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE" FORMULA. ADDRESSING

HIMSELF TO BASKET III, CHNOUPEK NOTED THAT FORTY PERCENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY CAN RECEIVE WEST GERMAN AND/OR AUSTRIAN TELEVISION, AND THAT ALL OF COUNTRY CAN RECEIVE RADIO BROADCASTS OF THESE NATIONS; CHNOUPEK SIAD HE WAS THUS IN FAVOR OF THIS TYPE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, BUT WAS UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THOSE OF RADIO FREE EUROPE, "WHICH ATTACKED SYSTEMS AND HEADS OF STATE, SOMETHING CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS NEVER DONE."

4. CONCERNING MBFR, VAN ELSLANDE SAID THAT CHNOUPEK SUPPORTED USSR POSITIONS RIGHT DOWN THE LINE. (VAN ELSLANDE CONTRASTED THESE VIEWS WITH THOSE OF THE POLES, NOTING HE HAD FOUND "SOME FLEXIBILITY" DURING HIS WARSAW VISIT A FEW MONTHS AGO. ON BOTH CSCE AND MBFR, VAN ELSLANDE SAID THAT CHNOUPEK HAD ECHOED USSR POSITIONS WITH LITOQE IF ANY AMPLIFICATION, LEADING TO THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S SUPPORT OF THE USSR WAS "IMPOSED.") WHERE BELGIUM TOOK THE POSITION THAT MBFR ATOMIC WEAPONS

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AND DELIVERY SYSTEMS CEILINGS WERE LIMITS FROM WHICH BOTH SIDES SHOULD TRY TO DESCENT, CHNOUPEK ARGUED FOR INCREASING CAPABILITIES TO MEET THE CEILINGS. VAN ELSLANDE POINTED OUT THAT SOME BELGIAN PARLIAMENTARINS HAD PROPOSED BILATERAL EAST-WEST DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS (E.G., BELGIUM-POLAND, OF BELGIUM-CZECHOSLOVAKIA), BUT CHNOUPEK DISMISSED SUCH PROPOSALS AS IMPOSSIBLE SINCE BOTH NATIONS WERE MEMBERS OF MILITARY PACTS.

5. ON CYPRUS, CHNOUPEK ADMITTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD NO DIRECT INTEREST, EXCEPT AS THE CONFLICT COULD SERVE AS A CRADLE FOR WAR. WHERE BELGIUM FELT THAT THE DISPUTE SHOULD BE SETTLED BY THE PARTIES INVOLVED, CZECHOSLOVAKIA FAVORED "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF THE NEGOTIAHVONS. (IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY GREEK AMBASSADOR, VAN ELSLANDE SAID THAT JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON HIS VISIT HHD NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES SUPPORTED SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON CYPRUS.)

6. REGARDING UNITED NATIONS, CHNOUPEK SAID THAT THE ROGANIZATION WAS FINE AS IT WAS AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGES IN ITS BASIC RULES. VAN ELSLANDE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT NOTED THAT THE PROLIFERATION OF MMINI-AND MMICRO- STATES HAD CAUSED REAL PROBLEMS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7. CHNOUPKE TOOK SIMILARLY PREDICTABLE POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST, ADMITTING THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS PRO-ARAB, BUT RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT TO EXISTENCE OF ALL PEOPLES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

8. CHNOUPEK BROUGHTUP THE SUBJECT OF EEC-CMEA RELATIONS, SAYING THAT HE FELT FORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO ROGANIZATIONS WERE DESIRABLE. VAN ELSLANDE POINTED OUT THAT THE EEC AND CMEA WERE STRUCTURALLY DIFFERENT AND DID NOT HAVE THE SAME ABILITIES TO DEAL ON BEHALF OF THEIR MEMBERS. BELGIUM THEREFORE FELT IT WOULD BE MORE DESIRABLE TO NEGOTIATE SOME SORT OF EEC-CMEA ROOF AGREEMENT, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF WHICH MORE SPECIFIC BILATERAL AGREEMENTS COULD BE MADE.

9. TO SURPRISE OF BELGIAN SIDE, CZECHOSLOVAKS HAD PRESENTED DRAFT TEXT OF BILATERAL "DECLARAMON OF FRIENDSHIP." CZECHOSLOVAKS NOTED THEY WERE IN NO HURRY AND SUGGESTED CONFIDENTIAL

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THHQT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE SIGNING OF SUCHH A DOCUMENT NEXT YEAR, POSSIBLY ON THE OCCASION OF A RETURN VISIT. (FRENCH AMBASSADOR BROKE IN TO SAY THAT CHNOUPEK HAD ALSO PRESENTED SUCH A DRAFT TO FRENCH DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO PARIS. VAN ELSLANDE OBSERVED THAT THIS OBVIOUSLY REPRESENTED A PROPER SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION AT A FUTURE EEC MEETING.)

10. LIGHT RELIEF WAS PROVIDED AT CLOSING OF BRIEFING, WHEN TURKISH CHARGE (WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH IS MINIMAL) SCURRIED ABOUT ANXIOUSLY ASKING, "WHAT WERE HE AND THE GREEK SAYING ABOUT CYPRUS?"  
PERRY

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